From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [1647] 17m frequency correction: 18.096 (this better be it!)
Message-ID: <v02130502acfdfffbd73f@[199.170.106.28]>

Well, heck! I surfed the web for two hours late Saturday night looking for a published 17m QRP frequency, with no luck. E-mailed the QRP group and everyone else I know. Then I heard from a couple of people with suggestions for 076 and 086. Then I stuck my neck out and picked 086.

But I just got word from Ed, N5EM, that there was already a standard: 096. This was published in Chuck's own table (see below.)

I sure wish I had gotten this info sooner. Thanks, Ed!   Just in time...

I'm changing all my references to 18.096.

73,
Wayne

Band	CW	SSB
160	1.810	1.910
		1.843 (Europe)
80	3.560	3.985
	3.710 (Novice)	3.690 (SSB EU)
40	7.040	7.285
	7.030 (Europe)	7.090 (SSB EU)
	7.060 (Europe)	
	7.110 (Novice)	
30	10.106	
20	14.060	14.285
17	18.096	
15	21.060	21.385
	21.110 (Novice)	21.285 (SSB EU)
12	24.906	
10	28.060	28.885
	28.110 (Novice)	28.385 (Novice)
		28.360 (SSB EU)
6	50.060	50.885
		50.285 (SSB EU)
2	144.060	144.285
		144.585 (FM)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [1626] 17m QRP CW frequency: 18.086, OK?
Message-ID: <v02130507acfd81070d60@[199.170.106.28]>

I got very little feedback on what the QRP CW calling frequency might be on 17 meters. Chuck Adams suggested 18.076, but Charles Lafkoff reminded me that 18.086 had been mentioned earlier on QRP-L. I think 086 should be "it," for two reasons: earlier mention, and the fact that 076 is a busier frequency. 18.086 should be a bit better for QRP.

18.086 it is. Sound the trumpets. Annotate the articles. (Or color me red if there really IS an earlier, official standard...)

In case you're wondering why I'm so concerned, it's because of the table of QRP frequencies in the Sierra manual, which gets printed tomorrow. That hole in the table under "17m" needed filling. It will say 18.086, but will also have a squiggly symbol and a note that says "not official." :)

Thanks,
Wayne
N6KR

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: bkmak@airmail.net (Bob Kmak)
Subject: [1667] 2SC799s FOUND
Message-ID: <199512202054.OAA08946@server.iadfw.net>

Guys,

   I've found the 2SC799's! Thanks

Bob
 KC5RAS

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995

From: K5ERJ@aol.com
Subject: [1674] 30M Explorer Results
Message-ID: <951220170752_76630501@mail04.mail.aol.com>

Gang:

I won't go through the info Chuck gave out on the OHR 30 meter Explorer II but did want to report that mine is finished and on the air, thanks to some help from Dick Witzke KE8KL. Since I am one of those who happens to be technically challenged, all help is appreciated.

After several CQ's, a kind gentleman from Utah, K7UC took pity on me and reported my signal at 559. The Explorer is showing just under 2 watts into my antenna (Some pruning should help that.)

Congratulations to Dick and Cathy. OHR has another winner!

73 Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukkah to All.

Ed K5ERJ Kansas

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [1629] 30M report
Message-ID: <199512201233.MAA00733@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Gang,

Well, with the prediction of snow and all and cold temperatures, the bands continue to be noisy in TX. On the air reports also indicate noise on all bands and all parts of the country.

I got on 30M when I got home around 5:30pm local CST (2321Z to be exact) December 19, 1995. Fired up the brand new Oak Hills Research Explorer II on 10.114MHz and fired off a couple of QRL?s and then proceeded to call CQ at 0.95W with complete abandon, i.e. I do like to call CQ, since I didn't hear anyone doing it. Heath GC-1000 is indicating that 10MHz WWV signal is not locked in, so may not have too much luck, but the receiver in the clock isn't as good as the one in the OHR Explorer II. I don't know what the K or the A values are. Don't care. I can hear my tty commercial markers at 6, 8, and 12 KHz up from the band edge, so signals are getting out.

First QSO outta the bag was with CT in the little town of Milford.

Got a 449, but nice comment on keying for a HB rig (left as an exercise for the reader for what that stands for :-)).

Twenty minutes later after finishing up QSO then moved up band to 10.118MHz where I heard a 5 calling CQ. Well, someone moved to the east coast and kept their call, OK, give him a holler. He is strong at 589. Get in QSO and find out he is in Minden LA, much closer than CT but it is east of me. I was half right.

Nice QSOs of 20 minutes each.

Move up a little further and heard another 5 calling CQ and work OK (Oklahoma).

Have to eat so run off for an hour or so. Come back and 30M is about as baren as some desert that hasn't seen rain in 50 years. Oh, I didn't spend the whole time eating. Had to work the crossword puzzle in the Dallas Morning News. Helps me keep up the spelling ability. Mrs Howard (ninth grade teach) would be proud.

OK, no problem I got another OHR Explorer II on 40M, rapidly switch connectors. Nice to have compatable plugs, etc. and get switched over pretty fast. Now Smitty is just 35 miles or so north of me and I can usually hear him, but I've got some buzzing noise that has raised the noise floor quite a bit. Every heater in Dallas county is on at the time, so no wonder. I don't hear many signals on 40M anyway. 7.040MHz is it's usual busy intersection with two QSOs going on within 300 Hz of each other. Nothing heard here so pull the big plug. I see from his posting that Smitty has a much better antenna than I. Now if I can get the neighbor two doors down to sell me the 70 foot R-25 tower I'd really have something to start with. :-) It's a shame to look at this tower which has nothing on it. Nada. Zip. I checked, he is not a ham. Used to have some commercial repeater for home business and took it down.

Using a Gates Cyclon 20AHr Gel Cell charged with R/C varicharger. Now using the charger posted a week ago that I picked up in Houston. I got the cells, which weigh more than all the rigs I own for a ridiculous price of $21 at a swapmeet in OKC about 5 years ago. The charger was $15.95 plus TX sales tax. I also periodically use a 4AHr gel cell that I picked up from Tanner Electronics in Dallas for $14.95. Seems like batteries are cheaper in TX than prices I see posted on this list in other states.

One thing that I noted during this exercise this evening (well now yesterday evening). I am using a 30M long wire up 3M,

end fed with 300 ohm ladder line with 10M counterpoise and MFJ-941C tuner. I use a Palomar Engineering Tuner Tuner noise critter to help with the Versa Tuner II (941C). This way I don't have to emit RF to find out what the antenna is going to do. Since it has been raining the past few days I expect some changes in the settings. Not much but some. Me and Kurt S. swear by these things(941C). Can't wait to check out the new NorCal St. Louis tuner. Anyone seen the announcement yet? I'm with Nils. Go out and put the longest and highest antenna you can with all the issues that limit it such as CCR's, land owned/borrowed to put it up, etc. Then try it. Give it a chance, i.e. more than 30minutes. If it doesn't do the job, try something else. Read a lot. Thinking helps too.

I find that the 40M and the 30M settings are exactly the same on the two caps and only requires a switch of two places on the inductance. Neat.

I'm up at 4a.m. and fire up the 40M Explorer II. Hear a 6Y5, but he doesn't hear me. Do work Bloominton IN after calling CQ a few times. Noise disappears suddenly. Guess temp now below freezing and we are getting into superconducting region. :-) I log into the computer system and catch up on about 60 emails since 5 p.m. yesterday.

I'm in progress of writing this report and looking at the clock and 5MHz is locked in solid. Since noise has gone away, go back to 30M. At 10.104MHz is a W2 calling CQ and he is a strong 599, so hey, give him a call and get a 539. OK, so he doesn't have a good receiver. :-) Can I help it? Nah. Talk for 15 minutes and he says I'm in a heat wave with my 25 degrees to his 10. He's got 90W with vertical. This is early in the morning before 6a.m. (I do sleep gang :-)).

So, here is the bottom line.

1. Oak Hills Research Explorer II's on 30M and 40M.
2. Super receivers. Much improved over the Explorer I.
3. Green Mountain-30 receiver compares the same as the Explorer, i.e. both are good. I'll do some more work.
4. All rigs running 0.95W (I'll come back off this figure and I know a bunch of people are tired of it, but I set a goal of 50 states with this power level. I made it with the KL7 on 20M during SS. *I got the card to prove it* Now I've got a problem. 49 states on 20M, 45 states on 30M, and 49 states on 40M all with 0.95W!! The 30M I did in 3 months during the 30M summer prop study. The others took a few years to do.

So now my goal is to finish 3 bands before the grass
turns green in the yard. Don't know if it's possible, but
no pain, no gain.) N6ULU is beating me to death on the 40M DXCC.

5. I've posted the 40M review and I'm working on detailed reviews
for publication. 40M Explorer II covers 70KHz and 30M covers
50KHz. Both smooth tuning and 8:1 vernier on cap works great.
6. Good solid state QSK.
7. Good AGC on OHR.
8. Quality parts. In fact, the 30M OHR Exp II is the first rig
that I didn't have to scrape the leads on the resistors to remove
slight layer of oxidation. Experienced builders will know what I'm
talking about.
9. Receivers are good for the bands listed and expected for 20M version too.
10. Variable bandwidth is super.
11. Good stability after a couple minutes of being on. Murata caps may
be suspect here. News at 11.

I see a couple of good trends here. We've gotten the price of a
quality single band rig below $100 list price. We've gotten away from
DC receivers. They have their place, but there are two things that are
most important in QRP work. The receiver (on both ends of the path) and
the antennas on both ends. Oh, and getting on the air helps. :-)

My concerns on some postings that I've seen. In 1995 I'd be prone to
keep away from surplus gear and old gear. The technology for oscillators,
receivers, etc. has improved. You need all the gain, stability and selectivity
you can get from your rig. I have a personal interest in Super Regen Receivers
since they have resurfaced recently and will do one or two in the next
few months as time permits. But, working with QRP stretches the boundaries
of communications and if it was easy everyone would be doing it.
This will start another thread. :-) Oh, and money shouldn't be an issue.
$100 US isn't that much money in today's economy. And it usually doesn't
require a permit from the significant other. :-)

So, topics covered: WX, Ionosphere, Antennas, 0.95W, Rigs, kits, homebrew,
foxhunt, QRPp, Nils, gel cells and charger, KL7 (thanks Jim for the posting)
, ... Did I leave anything out? :-) flame suit on Scottie. QRP-L #1

OK, posting this and off to work. Posting later in day, when I can get a
break from class and will repost the miles/watt values.

and the ever continuing dit dit
--
Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Aa4xx <aa4xx@nando.net>
Subject: [1625] 40 M Christmas Beacon
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951220035012.12951E-100000@parsifal.nando.net>

Hi Gang,

As many on the list have reported, propagation has been tough on 40 Meters as of late. Let's see what mother nature has in store for us this coming weekend. The 40 meter attended beacon will be running Sunday, Dec. 24 and Monday, Dec. 25 from 1300-2100 Z (8AM-4PM EST) on 7004.0 KHz.

If the WWV indices look anywhere near decent, we'll set the beacon power really low--at 100 microwatts; otherwise, we'll set it at phaser level--250 microwatts. :-)

The beacon string has an embedded 4 letter codeword. Those who successfully copy the codeword will receive a colorful certificate from the North Carolina group as our appreciation for supporting the project.

The beacon string will be as follows:

VVV VVV VVV 100 uW <4 letter codeword) de AA4XX/B

The transmitter will be an FT-757GX, using a CMOS Super Keyer II as the beacon keyer. Several different antennas will be used for multidirectional coverage.

Good luck, and Happy Holidays from the Tar Heel State,

Paul, AA4XX (Raleigh) (919) 779-1637

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: wmcshan@REX.RE.uokhsc.edu (Mike McShan)
Subject: [1663] Alpha Delta antennas
Message-ID: <9512201959.AA06791@rex.re.uokhsc.edu>

Anyone out there had any experience with the Alpha Delta DX-A or DX-B antennas? Any comments would be appreciated.

Happy holidays to all,

Mike N5JKY
QRP-L #300

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: CLATON.CADMUS@hamlink.mn.org (CLATON CADMUS)
Subject: [1643] ANTENNAS, SWR, FEED-LING
Message-ID: <819458614.AA04653@hamlink.mn.org>

Hello All,

I can't refrain myself from getting into the discussion. Antenna's are my favorite subject. What I think is being misunderstood is the nature of an Antenna Tuner and an SWR meter. Although these points were touched on, I think a more laymen's explaination will help to clarify.

What do Antenna Tuners and Rigs with tube finals have in common? Larger values of reactance. An Antenna Tuner really doesn't change the SWR it simple provides a network that stores the reflected energy and returns it to the antenna in proper phase. They really should be called "RF Reflectors". Rigs with tube finals also contain such adjustable networks and often will find a match after changing the feedline lenght. However, solid state rigs lack this "adjustable network" and can in fact be damaged by this "feedline fooling" because they lack the ability to store all the reflected energy and return it to the antenna.

SWR meters that we generally use have one common flaw. They don't measure SWR! They measure the forward and reflected voltage at one and only one place along a feedline and then calculate the SWR. So if you can find the right place in the feedline the SWR will "look" pretty good. The calculation in the SWR meter is also wrong, (or perhaps it would be better to say calibration), it doesn't include the feedline loss. This is why they will only give an accurate reading at the antenna terminals.

One last note. Most hams become to concerned about the SWR. If you can provide an antenna/feedline system that will work well with your transmitter that is all that is necessary. Even a 3db loss will only be a half S-unit in the other Hams receiver. So unless you are into 'right at the noise floor' receiving, a 1:1 SWR low loss antenna/feedline system is not required.

73 de Claton Cadmus, KA0GKC


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 ------------------------------------------------------------
|     FIDOnet= Claton Cadmus 1:282/100                       |
|    INTERnet= Claton.Cadmus@hamlink.mn.org                  |
|   PACKETnet= KA0GKC@WB0GDB.#STP.MN.USA.NA                  |
 ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
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   If anything I have written makes any cents, I claim copyright!
 * SLMR 2.1a * HAMFEST n 1.The act of sneaking stuff into the basement.

---NoSnail v1.17
****
HAM>link< RBBS - Serving the Amateur Radio Community Since 1983

- 612/HAM-0000 v.34   Ham Radio Spoken Here!!
- 612/HAM-1010 v.32b   Reply to sender @ hamlink.mn.org
****

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: larsennc@alaska.net (Nancy-KL7NY/Jim-AL7FS/Juliann-WL7MP)
Subject: [1623] Antennus pontificatus
Message-ID: <v01510100acfd6ec8744f@[206.149.66.123]>

Greetings from Alaska,

Last time I checked, my station had a rig (that seems ok for qrp-l), a
paddle (OK), a keyer (ok), an antenna (maybe ok) and a feedline
(apparently not ok unless the response is trite, short or trivial). I
operate my station (based on fox stuff, that is ok, too, even though it
doesn't interest me since I can never hear the fox).

I enjoy qrp-l. I do not enjoy the pontification of people judging length,
content, or appropriateness for this venue. Why not skip (don't read)
messages you dislike? Or just send a personal note to the originator of
the long or offensive (to maybe you only) message and LET IT GO. (I'd do
that with this note, but then what would be the point?)

Shall I pontificate some more?

Come on, let's have fun, and as long as my station still has a feedline or
an antenna, I want to learn how to have the best qrp antennas and feedlines
possible. The resources here on qrp-l are great. Don't plug up the
system.

Thanks and 73,

Jim Larsen
AL7FS
Anchorage, Alaska

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: KFGlynn@aol.com
Subject: [1654] Any interest in buying an OHR Explorer II?
Message-ID: <951220140112_59514724@emout05.mail.aol.com>

Are you interested in this rig? Not sure if we can get a group deal but $100 sounds very attractive.

  Some general info: EXPLORER II (Oak Hills Research) Kit
     Single band, 70KHz coverage, on either 30, 40, or 80M,CW only
     Single-conversion superhet using NE602's.
     4-pole crystal filter, BW adjustable from 1.5KHz - 300Hz (+/-)
     RX current draw 45mA, TX 400mA (+/-)

Thanks to Harry WA1VVH.

73 de Kevin Glynn KB2TEO

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Dennis Blanchard <djade@hampstead.k12.nh.us>
Subject: [1635] Battery Controllers under no-load.
Message-ID: <Chameleon.4.01.951220102035.djade@p_jade.hampstead.k12.nh.us>

Recently there have been a few folks that have asked about charging Gelled Electrolyte batteries and I would say that the answers have been very good, which reflects on the knowledge available in the group.

One thing that is not readily evident however conerning the battery controller (or charger, if one prefers) is that many of the "smart" controllers do not put any charging current/voltage out UNTIL the battery is connected. The reason for this is that they are smart enough to realize that there is no battery so don't do any real charging. Many of the chips available, such as the one we use, (UC3906) do provide for supplying a "trickle" current to bring up a totally dead battery to a respectable level before applying a bulk charge. This prevents dumping large currents into a shorted battery, or one that is severly discharged, which could be dangerous and could harm the controller as well, since the voltage would have to be dropped across the heat sink and could overheat things.

The "trickle" current is not the same as the floating voltage state that the battery must be maintained in. This "trickle" is typically a very small current, we use about 20 MA, to get the battery started. The floating voltage however is a specific voltage range that is applied to the battery after a complete charge to keep in in a "maintainence mode". This floating state can

actually prolong the life of the battery, and at the same time keep it ready for duty.

This situation is particularly fussy in Gelled Batteries because they have no place to vent gases. Smart controllers make the chore easy. Many individuals do charge these batteries using a supply and setting voltages and currents and this will work fine if one is careful, but if you are lazy, like myself, and want it fully automated then the smart controllers are wonderful, unfortunately they are not inexpensive.

Have a good holiday season folks, and maybe I will find some time over the time off to do a bit of operating.

Gee, I hope my battery is ready :>)

Dennis, K1YPP

Name: Dennis Blanchard, Jade Products, Inc.
      Engineer, (K1YPP) 603-329-6995
See our Web Page:
http://www.hampstead.k12.nh.us/~djade/index.html

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Aa4xx <aa4xx@nando.net>
Subject: [1624] Christmas Beacon/MPW
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951220031559.12951D-100000@parsifal.nando.net>

Brad,
      Your recent posting concerning MPW info sure drew a lot of comments from the QRP-L gang! To specifically answer one of your questions, the North Carolina QRP group has issued a total of five certificates for microwatt level beacon reception on forty meters. The stations and MPW info are as follows:

BEACON TRIALS, transmitting from Raleigh, NC

RECEIVING STATIONS, 250 microwatts, 40 meters

BOb Nygren, WA3YON Sweet Valley, PA 404 Mi. 1.6 Million MPW

Danny Gingell,	K3TKS	Silver Spring, MD	245 Mi.	890,000	MPW

500 microwatts, 40 meters

Dave Williamson,	AA4ZX	Bowden, WV	224 Mi.	448,000	MPW
John Kelly,	AA8LF	DeWitt, MI	582 Mi.	1.16 Million	MPW
Keith Hibbert	KE2DI	Bergen, NY	506 Mi.	1.01 Million	MPW

Chuck Adams published a MPW summary in the NorCal QRPp newsletter, June 1995 issue, p. 5, which lists MPW records by band. The North Carolina group will forward copies of all certificates to Chuck, so the information will be available in the ARCI database.

The North Carolina beacon will be operational Christmas Eve and Christmas day. I'll post a separate notice to QRP-L on this. Thanks, Brad, for your continued interest and support of the microwatting effort!

72 and Happy Holidays,

Paul, AA4XX Raleigh, NC

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: tbowman@leba.net
Subject: [1636] Clarification on my Tejas gel-cell charger
Message-ID: <199512201529.KAA15651@fig.leba.net>

As kindly pointed out by some folk, my Tejas gel cell charger should be under load for measurement of charging voltage.
With either of two batteries connected, the most voltage I can crank out of my Tejas charger is 13.24 VDC which seems a bit low to me.
Send lawyers, guns any money.....Help!

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: elly@epix.net
Subject: [1613] CMOS II HW-8
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951219231245.29385A-100000@peach.epix.net>

HAS ANYONE INSTALLED A CMOSII KEYER INSIDE AN HW-8? IF SO ANY PROBLEMS. BY THE WAY USED A VERY SMALL SPEAKER FROM A HALLMARK TALKING CARD. WORKS GREAT. ALSO THE CARD HAS A NICE SMALL PLASTIC PACK WITH 4-1.3 VOLT CELLS

IN A SLIDING TRAY FOR REPLACEMENT. AND YOU CAN STILL MAKE THAT VOICE
KEYER FROM QST.
SEASONS GREETING FROM SNOWY POCONO MOUNTAINS HANK KE3IK

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Frank G3YCC <frank@yorks.demon.co.uk>
Subject: [1662] CU in the G QRP Winter Sports?
Message-ID: <fIXE0FAOaF2wEwbT@yorks.demon.co.uk>

Hi, I hope to work a few stations in the G QRP Club winter sports,
beginning on Dec 26th. 20 metres is good some days and I worked K1GDH,
Ed in Webster, Ma., today 20.12.95 QRP both ways at 1600 GMT, so who
knows?
--
Frank G3YCC

Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, desists from giving us verbal
evidence of the fact. (or something like that!)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [1680] Explorer II variable bandpass
Message-ID: <199512210224.CAA02878@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Someone, and I profusely apologize for not writing it down, mentioned
that they had a problem with the variable bandpass doing some serious
attenuation on a signal. I wrote back at the time that I thought it
was due to being off the center freq of the filter and that I would try
it when I got home.

So, when I get home in the cold of winter I fired up the 30M Explorer II
to see how the band was doing. Sounded dead, but down to the edge and
start tuning up. Pow. XE1/AB5VI working 'em right and left. Got my
call in and got a 539. Hey, I'll take it. He was 579. Then up about
16KHz heard a K6, so holler at him. He's 589 (I'm feeling generous at
Christmas time) and I get a 549. Can't buy a higher report tonight. :-)
Hey, he's in Idaho. That's close to ND, but not close enough.

Band is on the way out.

Down to 40M. Will try it out later.

I tune in a strong signal at various tones and vary the bandpass. Here is what I get. At about 800 or 850Hz (I like a high tone) I find that from wide open to the narrow position I can not tell much if any difference in the level of the signal, thus very little attenuation. But at other tones (audio freqs) there is appreciable attenuation. This is exactly what you want. Otherwise how are you going to narrow the bandpass?

Now I've got my little rig in the cabinet and all sealed up, so the Chuck Adams' DFW (Don't Fool With it) rule is in effect. Everytime I take the screws outta case I lose them. Found that I could minimize this by putting them in a film canister until I need them back. Thus, I can't go and change the offset frequency to see if I could lower it to another tone for the 'chosen' bandpass center freq.

Hope this helps.

tnx es dit dit
--
Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>
Subject: [1641] Fox Hunt Question
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951220082921.18357A-100000@crl14.crl.com>

Of the 42 Fox hunters that were worked last night, 32 were Extra Class, 7 were Advanced, 2 were General and 1 was a Ve3.

On 7110, there were 5 Extra stations and 2 Advanced stations.

32 EXTRAS OUT OF 42 CONTACTS.

Was this an isolated incidence or is this becomming indicative of the Fox hunts?

Where were the Advanced, Generals, Tech Pluses and Novices?

I wonder how many people have tried the fox hunt and given up.

Is there anything that we can do to help?

What's going on?

Smitty, NA5K

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Harry_Chase@smtpgwy.windata.com (Harry Chase)
Subject: [1644] Fox Hunt Question
Message-ID: <9511208194.AA819491154@smtpgwy.windata.com>

Maybe most of the stations were Extra's because of the code. I often see postings here saying it was difficult to copy at 20WPM, etc. Another reason may be simply one of experience? QRP isnt the easiest thing to copy on a crowded band sometimes.
     (before the flames start, I myself am terrible at copying CW, having been off the low bands entirely for several years. I just decided to use the fox hunt as a way to get some copying practice! -May take me a while to copy solidly enuff to be comfortable in a QSO with QRM, QSB, etc on the band!)

     So, please continue the fox hunts , whoever answers. QRS a little at times and maybe the novices (and those waaay out of practice like myself) will reply more often. but dont stay at 5 WPM ALL the time or I wont get the practice I need:-)

Harry
WA1VVH

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [1668] Fox hunt question es CW proficiency
Message-ID: <199512202128.OAA08249@usr3.primenet.com>

I didn't mean to cut out Extra class hams from my statement about certificates. It just didn't occur to me that they don't love CW like I do :-). If it's accepted, wallpaper for everyone who can catch the fox.

As an active VE, I do the monthly CW testing for our sessions in Tempe, AZ and try to have a short chat with the unsuccessful candidates. Generally, I find that they rely on tapes or computer programs to build speed. Folks, that won't do it. Once you learn the code and pass 5 wpm, the single best way to increase your copying ability is to use your license and make CW contacts. You're gonna start out slow, but

you need to start answering CQ's sent just a little faster than you're comfortable with.

Work CW contests. The neat thing is that you can listen in to someone's exchange as long as you want until you figure it out, no matter how fast they are sending. The only thing that changes is the number, and you'll find that you can anticipate that. If you work a CW contest that starts on a Friday evening, then break for an exam session on Sat a.m., you'll find that your speed has increased. Work every contest you can. It also exposes you to machine-generated code, bugs, hand keys, good (and sloppy) fists and lots of qrm to copy through.

Another good trick is to jump into the CW pileups for a good DX station and see how many calls you can pick out of the pile. Don't have to catch the DX station unless you want to...the idea is to pull calls out of the middle of the mess of qrm to develop your ears. Don't write them down. Just work on head copy.

While learning to copy in your head, get away from having to print the stuff. If you can train yourself to write cursively, you'll find it's much easier. The flow is smoother, and your hand will begin to just form the words as your brain hears them.

It doesn't come easily, but it does come, and fairly quickly. No need to set a wpm target. Just let it happen and you'll be pleased with the results.

72/73 es GL, de Roger

--
       Roger Hightower, AA7QY   Mesa, AZ   (DM43CJ) aa7qy@primenet.com
 QRP-L #62 NE-QRP 383   NorCal 1099   CQC 176   QRP-ARCI 8946   G-QRP 9081

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: JKXM17A@prodigy.com (ALLEN SMITH)
Subject: [1616] Fox Not
Message-ID: <091.07081697.JKXM17A@prodigy.com>

Well, Smitty, if you had moved just one kc down I'll bet I could have got ya. I heard you 219 - 229 for a few minutes around 0445 but right in the middle of a total wipe out hetrodyne that occasionally faded enough for your signal to leak through. That was sneaky.

I was working with a bare bones NC40A, no adjustable bandwidth filter, no

scaf, no luck. I may get frustrated enough to break out the real hardware one of these days.

Allen - AA0YU, Grand Junction, CO

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: pelt@vt.edu (Randy Pelt)
Subject: [1664] Fox Novice Freq
Message-ID: <199512201951.OAA26882@quackerjack.cc.vt.edu>

I agree with Steve. 7110 is useless and you got to be a masochist to want to fight all that BC crap. 7140-45 is always a lot quieter. Why don't we try that range or close by for the novice freq.

My 3c worth.

72/3


```
**************************************************
*Ranson J. Pelt                                  *
*Internal Audit Manager              ___  _______ *
*Virginia Tech 0328                  \  \/ __   __/ *
*Blacksburg, VA 24061                 \   / /  /    *
*(540) 231-9475  FAX (540) 231-4681     \_/ /__/     *
*                                                *
*QST de nz4i      Semper Fi                      *
**************************************************
```


From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Jim Stafford-W4QO <w4qo@america.net>
Subject: [1666] Fox, R/S rx and TenTec BFO
Message-ID: <Pine.SV4.3.91.951220155221.5329N-100000@atl1>

Just finished adding the Tentec BFO (kit) to the Radio Shack DX-350, their $40 (on sale, about every other month) shortwave radio. I can supply details of where to inject the BFO if anyone wants. It receives part of 40, 30, and 20 meters HAM bands (most of 40m). I am digging out my old Tentec 40m meter one watt transmitter board (they used to sell the individual units they used in the Power Mites) and put in my CW Crystals (company in Marshfield, MO) 7.110 FT-423 crystal ($4) and I'm

ready for tonight's FOX. Ahhhhh, ain't it great!

73/72/jim/w4qo

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Jacqueline Herman <jherman@sierra.net>
Subject: [1677] free xtals
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951220172601.27748D-100000@diamond>

Hi Gang,
It's been a year or two since I posted anything to you folks - it's
good to be back!

I have 2 dozen xtals cut for 7600 kc (in the old FT holder). @Y4oB* +5C|O{

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Steve KG7PV <kg7pv@teleport.com>
Subject: [1621] Gell Cell Charging
Message-ID: <199512200609.WAA15734@desiree.teleport.com>

For anyone interested in charging gell cells, here is some info from Power
Sonic who makes a whole range of them. I have two. The are orange. The 4
amp hour battery is about 4"H x 3"D x 3.5 " W.   Cost was under $30 ($24???)
a couple of years ago. The info is from their spec sheet. These run my
Norcal and OHR rigs for long camping weekends without any trouble. Never
really have tried to run them down tho a chart on the sheet shows the # of
cycles/retention of capacity for 50% discharge at 400 and 1200 for a 30%
discharge rate. (I should be so regular hihi)

The capacity is rated at:
20 hour rate 200ma to 10.5 volts   4 AH
10 hour rate 370ma to 10.5 volts   3.7 AH
5   hour rate 650ma to 10.5 volts   3.2 AH
1 hour rate   2400ma to 9.00 volts   2.4 AH

Shelf Life (% of nominal capacity at 68 deg F)
1 month - 97%
3   "   - 91%
6   "   - 83%

Charging - Cycle Applications: Limit initial current to 800ma. Charge
until battery
voltage (under charge) reaches 14.4 to 14.7 volts at 68 deg F. Hold at 14.4

- 14.7 volts until current drops to approximately 40ma. Battery is fully charged under these conditions and charge should either be disconnected or switched to "float" voltage.
Float or Stand-by service: Hold battery across constant voltage source of 13.5 - 13.8 volts continuously. When held at this voltage, the battery will seek its own current level and maintain itself in a fully charge condition.
Steve Miller KG7PV
Norcal # 308, QRP-L #109

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: George.Gingell@bbs.abs.net (George Gingell)
Subject: [1656] GRID SQUARES
Message-ID: <1995Dec20.142554.5355@abs.net>

I don't recall who asked, but there was a request recently about how to figure out the Grid Square Sub-Squares. I wondered myself, since I am currently working on a QRPp Milliwatting project to Calculate the KMW on some QRP Contacts and Beacon efforts. I have created a list of around 150-200 QRPers around the country who I have worked at one time or another.
I am not happy with the CALLS2ZIP results that I get from the server. Of course, it is better than nothing. Not trying to knock the program. I think it is GREAT. I just feel that we can do better onthe accuracy.
The problem is not with the program it is the data we feed it. I did some work on this with WA8MCQ a number of years ago. We determined that the AIR LINE ROUTE BETWEEN US was 11.806 Miles. No, we didnot use a string. The program yeilds a figure of 17 miles. Reason: It uses the zip codes. Neither of us live at the post office. In some cases both callsigns are in the same zipcode. hence zero miles...
By now you are wondering what in the world all this has to do with GRID SQUARES.??? Well it is what got me starting on the Quest for better Data. I still have a long way to go. Doing it with ruler, compass, dividers and pencil takes time. I am tryint to compile a Certified QRP QTH Data base for use with The Maryland Milliwatt Club QRpp Operating events and Beacon Trials. Maybe we will come up with yet another award..
There is an ARRL Publication, Yellow Flyer type thing. It is a world map with the GRID Square Locators on it. NOT THE SUB-SQUARES..
I looked thru the ARRL Handbooks, no help. I had to dig further into my library where I came across the Originator Info from across the pond. Yep!, our Good buddies from UK are the Masterminds behind the Plan.
I found the explanation in the RSGB Publication Amateur Radio Operating Manual (Third Edition) 1979, 1982, 1985. Pages 64-66 will do it for you. If I can find the time, I will try to extract enough of it to explain it for you. Or if the Chap who asked would drop me a note, I could copy it and amail it to you.

Basically the Sub Square is the smallest division 24 X 24 Grid of
5 minute by 2.5 minute squares. AA at bottom left, XX in top Right.
AB is North of AA, etc. top left being AX, and bottom right being XA.
Hope that helps.
Merry Christmas, Happy New Years, Boxing Day, Etc.
Hope we hear you on the contests..
QRP DX TU (C)1986 Danny Gingell,K3TKS@bbs.abs.net

--
George Gingell, user of the UniBoard System @ abs.net
E-Mail: George.Gingell@bbs.abs.net
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: hambrew@qadas.com (George De Grazio)
Subject: [1672] Happy Holidays & New TOC
Message-ID: <v01520d06acfe4143ee06@[204.227.16.71]>

hambrew-Gram
Season's Greetings!

hambrew, Winter '96

Table of Contents

All the best for '96 to the QRP-L Group from hambrew.

73, 72,

George, WF0K
hambrew@qadas.com
http://www.qadas.com/hambrew

(Links to QRP-L Archives)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: KFGlynn@aol.com
Subject: [1634] Helical Antenna
Message-ID: <951220095407_59314293@emout06.mail.aol.com>

I want to construct a helical antenna for 40 meters home use. Do you have any ideas on the best low loss form? W1FB says PVC is no good, but it is SO much cheaper than other plastics. Also does it matter how many turns per inch? 14 ga wire OK? OK to use smaller ga (maybe 18) as radials? And do the radials have to be an actual 1/4 wave? I'll mounting this on my flat roof. I read somewhere that radials for a helical only have to be as long as the length of the form used. Want to use brazing rods as top hat, too. I appreciate any info you may have.

73 de Kevin Glynn KB2TEO

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: tbowman@leba.net
Subject: [1632] Help with Tejas Gel Charger
Message-ID: <199512201431.JAA11412@fig.leba.net>

     The no-load voltage of my Model 8101 Tejas gel-cell charger is 13.24 VDC with R7 adjusted for maximum voltage.
     According to the manual, charging voltage should be about 2.4 volts per cell or 14.4 volts into an uncharged battery and between 2.25 and 2.30 volts for floating charge, or 13.8 volts.
     Connecting my charger to a fully-charged gel cells gives the 13.24 volt charge.
     Anyone using a Tejas charger, please measure the output voltage and let me know what it reads with no load AND with a battery in place.
        Also, please pass along any part substitutions needed to bring up both the float and the charge voltages.
     Thanks much, Tom, WA3REY

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: bfinch@asp.vet.purdue.edu (Robert Finch)

Subject: [1617] hey nils and miles/watt
Message-ID: <9512200626.AA27355@asp.vet.purdue.edu>

well how's this nils...now i don't have any caps!

es

i thought the fireballers had the miles/watt dealy
sewn up for the next several years.....nasa conceeded
to them on this a while back i heard.....i got a
chance a couple of years ago to speak with the
dude, got his call around here somewhere...nice guy
(but he runs a high power amp on occasion!)....
oops i'm not suppose to tell u guys that.....oh
well, it's outta the bag now......hi...
he lives down chuck's way last i heard....even have
his address as he wanted sum info i had for himmm....

anyways k sumthing irk was his call i think
baab

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>
Subject: [1678] junk box sale, filters
Message-ID: <9140.819509101@safety.ics.uci.edu>

Anyone need filters? I have a load of them, but need some money more
than I need the filters sitting in my drawer :-) . Finally found
a filter I need for my Ten Tec Argonaut, and want to break even, hi hi.

Have a couple of 455 KHz IF filters, a MuRata K-13 ceramic SSB filter,
a Collins mechanical SSB filter. $25 each... I may have the Kenwood
YG 455S-1 in there, too, if you want an 8 pole crystal SSB filter.

I have some 8.8 MHz (Kenwood) IF filters, the YK-88S (for adding
to the TS 130V!), and the IRCI 2.1 KHz crystal SSB filter that is
narrower with steeper skirts. I need to check where/how I got them,
but I think I want $35 for the Kenwood and $45 for the IRCI.

I have a Ten Tec 4 pole 2.7 KHz crystal filter from the Corsair or
the Argosy for the 9 MHz IF. $18 for this one.

I also have a Motorola speaker and some 120vac box fans extra if you
need them, $5.

Email with inquiries. Thanks

Clark
WA3JPG

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: George.Gingell@bbs.abs.net (George Gingell)
Subject: [1653] kmwa
Message-ID: <1995Dec20.135151.5355@abs.net>

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: kreinbd@ccgate.dl.nec.com (David Kreinberg)
Subject: [1660] LENGHTY REPLY
Message-ID: <9511208194.AA819492945@smtpgw.ccgate.dl.nec.com>

> Sorry sports fans. I was informed that my response
> to Chuck's Novice/Tech Plus fox dealy has included
> all of Chuck's original text.
> I'm still learning how to snip bits and pieces of
> an original text with this email package. Please
> bear with me and my apologies for the extra B.W.
>
> 72/73 de Dave KK5HA
> QRP-L #25

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: JessQRP@aol.com
Subject: [1619] Miles per Watt OHR 400 and other ramblings
Message-ID: <951220005115_76322278@mail02.mail.aol.com>

Here I am again, reading through 10 messages about miles per watt thinking that there might be something of interest in them. Nothing again. Just post after post about the Jupitor this and Venus that and how to calculate Baziga Hertz receiver path loss.

The original request was for HF miles per watt. Anyone the keeper of this information?

I still think that the bands must really stink or everyone is keeping their caffeine intake WAY up with all of the very long and at the same time very empty messages. Anybody gotten back to reality and got any straight scoop on this perfectly GOOD QUESTION??

There! Now I feel better ! #8-)

On the QRP front:

The OHR 400 is looking good. I have been on vacation from work (YEA!) and now the solder is flying. I finished the last board and got most of the guts mounted in the chassis. Now a little (yea right 56 wires!) point to point wiring and the smoke test will be at hand. I went really slow and was really careful with this one, I have high hopes that it will work the first time. A little alignment and tweaking and we shall see what we shall see. My goal is to have the little beauty on the air this week and post the results of operating over Christmas week to see how many countries and states that I can pile up in a week on 5 watts with the dude. I am overall very very impressed with this kit. It was designed right and the instructions are a thing of beauty. If you are looking for a fairly involved radio project and want it to be a pleasure to build, I would suggest the 400. The design is really good. There is a bit more real estate in the box than I care for and it is a bit big, but REALLY nice looking. Just the ticket for a real QRP (I like em home built or the contacts don't count hi!) multi band hmain home rig and sometimes portable (almost luggable!) rig. Had a lot more fun building this one than the Cascade for some reason, haven't figured out why yet.

Maybe we could post BREIF contact reports over the holidays just to see how everyone is doing and how QRP propogation is, seeings how everyone has had the low sun spot cycle blues lately......

Best to all

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [1650] Novice/Tech Plus re Foxhunt
Message-ID: <199512201830.SAA01849@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Gang,

As brought up by Smitty we do have a problem. Well,
kinda.

Remember at the start when I was making a list and
checking it twice I mentioned that we might not run
the foxhunt up at 7.110MHz. Took a bunch of flak
(it's OK, I'm not complaining) about leaving the
Novices outta the picture. So, due to preceived
demand the foxes set aside a time slot for doing

a tour of duty within the range allocated.

I just did a lookup of all the successful completions
so far it looks like only one was a novice or tech plus.

So, all Novices/Techs send me email direct, do NOT post
to qrp-l. Just me the following one or two word answers
to the following questions:

1. Have you tried to work the foxes?
2. Do you feel intimidated by the code speed?
3. Would you volunteer to be a fox?
4. Do you have a reasonable antenna?
5. What is your rig?

What we (the group) can do is run an experiment. I'll
pick one of the group of Novices/Tech Pluses to be a
"special" fox. This individual be be a test to see if
we can get more participation up in that part of the
band by other than Extra Class/Advanced licenses.

This individual will play fox and no one shall exceed
the fox code speed at anytime during the contact. No
other QSOs will start up on the freq picked by the fox.
We'll come up with a shortened exchange, such as

FOX FOX de K5FO K5FO 559 559 TX TX NR1 NR1 CHUCK CHUCK FOX DE K5FO

where

FOX is their call
K5FO is the calling station
RST
STATE (two letter abbreviation and no city - it's in the callbook)
QRP-L NUMBER
NAME of operator

If you get the call, RST, and name it is a valid QSO. Missed
information can be filled in from the reflector. The exchange
above (suggested) makes the QSO quick (really a contact) and
similar to a contest style exchange and gives useful info.
It shouldn't take all that long at 5-13 wpm (the foxes choice).

I know that thinking back when I was just beginning I was
intimidated for a while when I got on the air. You feel like
that you will be forever ruined if you mess up a contact, fail
to copy everything that was ever sent, just tick someone off so
badly that noone else in the world will ever talk to you, ...

It doesn't work that way. Every time I talk to a new person on the air I always have an open mind. So what if they make mistakes or I make mistakes. If we were perfect or if we think that way we need to find something else to do with our time. Like solve budget problems for large governments, find a cure for all kinds of diseases, put an end to world hunger, etc.

Carrying on a QSO does (IMHO) several things:

a. it tests the equipment
b. it gets a sample point for propagation conditions
c. it allows me to talk to another human being without a computer between me and them
d. at QRP levels I'm pushing the envelope
e. I just might get a new country, state, county, qrp-l number, etc.

When I look at the desk (when it's clean) I am looking at what I want to simplify the process of generating a QSO. I don't want 10,000 adjustments to make. On the rig I want freq and volume (and now have bandwidth). On the keyer I want speed. And on the tuner I have three adjustments. Usually I set the antenna tuner and the speed and volume and all I have to do is tune across the band, work a station, and move on. Life doesn't get any simplier than that. I have never been impressed with all the DSP, separate VFOs, etc. that people are spending a lot of money on. I understand what and why they are doing, but it's just not for me. I have spent a lot of money of QRP equipment and only because I chose to do so. It's not for everyone to try to collect a bunch of stuff. Most want one good setup to enjoy.

What have the NorCal 40(a,b), SWL rigs, OHR rigs, and the other small rigs have pretty much in common. Few bells and whistles. Simple to operate and little to go wrong. We can pretty much find someone with a replace part that doesn't cost me a months worth of rent or a house/car payment. I love it.

So for the Novice and others, don't get overwhelmed by the discussions ongoing on this group. We all started someplace and I hope that we are all mindful of the fact that unless we help those that follow after us we are wasting our time. There is room for everyone and there is growth yet to come. On HF we have proved that QRP CW is the major mode.

So at this time of the year when we all should be thoughtful and step back and look at the big picture let's help each other. Don't let the pressures of everyday life make us into a Scrooge.

So let's hear from the Newbies.

and as usual

dit dit
--
Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: ae4ic@nr.infi.net (BOB KELLOGG)
Subject: [1651] qrp kits
Message-ID: <199512201843.NAA00225@moe.infi.net>

Gang,

This note is to summarize the response I got when I proposed to coordinate the development of some kits. The idea was to come up with something that a group of us would build together. (at the same time)

I received some great ideas for kits. They are listed below. (I appologise in advance to those who sent in detailed explanations. These will be brief descriptions)

 1. Simple antennas that work
 2. CW keying monitor
 3. QSK switching circuit on a board
 4. Good multi-band receiver design
 5. VOX circuit for s.s.b. QRP xceivers
 6. RF (or IF) speech processor
 7. RF (or IF) cw processor
 8. Passive audio filter for CW
 9. Regenerative receiver (I think Ten-Tec has one)
10. Vacuum tube based rig

But, alas, most of these ideas came from individuals who had a personal interest or need. We would want to define a market for a reasonable quantity of something before we started trying to make up a kit. The suggested transmitter is evidently a bust. No one wanted one. (altho, a designer wrote about a xmitter he had developed which would fit the bill)

I believe there would be a market for some of the items, but I would need a lot more input before launching a project. Most of the above items would require good design work.

What do you think, gentlemen? Are you interested in this kind of stuff?

73,

Bob
Bob Kellogg, AE4IC

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: paxton@sound.net (frank paxton iii)
Subject: [1675] qrp-l readers in Kansas City ??
Message-ID: <199512210110.TAA20349@sound.net>

hey...
i'd like to find out if any other qrp-l subscribers live in the Kansas City area.

please reply direct as i doubt the list is interested.

thank you.

de ng0n. frank.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: RHILTO@acxiom.com
Subject: [1658] Re[2]: Novice/Tech Plus re Foxhunt
Message-ID: <0d8643b0@acxiom.com>

David: I'm glad you agree with Chuck re: Novice/Tech Fox hunters.

But you didn't have to include his ENTIRE MESSAGE in your reply.

A snippet or two would have been adequate.

Bob   ki5ez

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: bkmak@airmail.net (Bob Kmak)
Subject: [1652] source for 2SC799
Message-ID: <199512201847.MAA07256@server.iadfw.net>

Guys,

  Can anyone tell me where I can get a couple 2SC799's ? Or suggest a reasonable replacement?

  Thanks in advance and Merry Christmas!!

  Bob KC5RAS

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>
Subject: [1620] Tuesday nite Fox Report
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951219210911.22850B-100000@crl10.crl.com>

Well you could definitely see a pattern in the propagation tonight. Looks like it was open to the immediate north. There were some western states and some 4 landers. Not much from the NW or NE.

7.040+ was crowded, 7.110+ was terrible with BC station.

Rig: TS-50 5 Watts
Ant: Delta loop
Condx: Very noisy here, its been windy all day.
QRM: lots of it.

7.043 (I think)

Time Call   Snt Rcv

0303 K5UP   599 599
0305 WO0Q   449 539
0307 N6MM   449 579 Not many 6's tonite
0310 AB5OU   449 449
0312 NZ4I   449 559
0313 KB0WZ   559 579
0314 N6ULU   449 339 Stan must have had his beam pointing west
0316 W3PM   559 559
0320 AA0XZ   559 599 He got him an EXII, and he happy!
0322 WJ4P   589 459
0325 NN9K   449 549
0326 N3KFL   339 239
0330 WB4BDS 559 569

```
-------
7.111
-------
Time  Call   Snt Rcv

0334 WB8ZJL  559 579 He got me before I even called CQ
0334 K2NF    579 579
0336 WA9PWP  339 339
0342 KC5EQC  599 599
0345 WA7FCU  339 449
0352 W0KQC   579 579
0357 NQ7K    339 449

--------
7.040 (ish)
--------
Time  Call   Snt Rcv

0402 N4AOX   559 559
0403 W6ZH    449 439
0405 W1HUE   559 559
0407 WO3B    449 449
0411 KC4EWT  559 579
0413 KF8EE   559 559
0415 K9DZE   449 449
0420 N4EUK   229 339
0423 NG0N    569 559
0426 NR4N    559 459
0430 VE3DNL  449 459
0434 WB9LKC  449 449
0436 AC6IY   559 459
0438 AK5B    559 449 From Spring Texas, about 250 miles South
0441 WD4MPS  559 559
0445 AD4ZE   229 229
0446 AA7QY   229 239
0448 WB9QDL  339 569
0449 AA7TQ   559 559
0453 AE4IC   229 229
0456 N0UVR   449 339
0458 KC7NEV  559 579

42 contacts. Any corrections?

Sorry that I couldnt hear everybody.  If I could have found some clear
freqs, I could have worked more stations.

Thanks,
```

Smitty, NA5K

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: bmitchel@kodak.com (Brad Mitchell)
Subject: [1582] what's the current reocrd

--
George Gingell, user of the UniBoard System @ abs.net
E-Mail: George.Gingell@bbs.abs.net
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: PDouglas12@aol.com
Subject: [1649] Why extra class in Foxhunt?
Message-ID: <951220132858_76523532@emout06.mail.aol.com>

Gang,

After about six seconds of thought (my maximum) I have concluded the foxhunts are more heavily represented in the extra and advanced licensees because:
   1. QRP is more challenging than QRO, and therefore attracts hams seeking more difficult contacts (viz. Chuck's self-limited quest for WAS with <1w). Presumably this is because these hams have already made a number of contacts at higher power levels, and now these contacts seem to be too easy.

  2. Novices have enough to worry about making cw contacts, and the additional handicap of low power makes training perhaps too difficult and frustrating.   I teach a novice class, and I do not reccommend QRP for beginners. Code speed is built in contacts, not sending endless unanswered

CQs.

  3. Fox hunting for most is very difficult/challenging/and even frustrating because it requires two way QRP communication without regard to propagation maxima and therefore successes are relatively rare on a per session basis.

  4. If Fox hunting is based partly on skill (I certainly think it is), then one might expect a novice would have less skill than an extra. As between them, for example, one might expect the extra to know more about how to zero beat a station. One might also find more extras and advanced and generals know about this list than novices. (I know we have a number of very savvy novices here too, but that's because they're savvy, right?)

72, and I hope to hear the fox again sometime soon!

Preston WJ2V

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: "Bowes, Fr. Bruce" <GBB1@MARISTB.MARIST.EDU>
Subject: [1630] WWW site & prog maps
Message-ID: <20DEC95.08610385.0012.MUSIC@MARISTB.MARIST.EDU>

Someone kindly posted some addresses for www sites for propagation
maps. I lost my copy. Could someone send me the info again.
Thanks. A Blessed Christmass to all.
Fr Bowes

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [1628] Re: 17m QRP CW frequency: 18.086, OK?
Message-ID: <199512201048.KAA00654@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Wayne,

You are the official keeper of the 17M freqs. :-)

dit dit es congrats
--
Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: N5EM@aol.com
Subject: [1637] Re: 17m QRP CW frequency: 18.086, OK?
Message-ID: <951220102850_76441396@emout06.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 95-12-20 04:18:08 EST, you write:

>18.086 it is. Sound the trumpets. Annotate the articles. (Or color me
>red if there really IS an earlier, official standard...)
>
>

Subj: QRP Freqs
Date: 95-07-12 04:40:42 EDT
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Sender: qrp-l@lehigh.edu
Reply-to: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com
To: qrp-l@lehigh.edu (Multiple recipients of list)

Gang,

The following are, to the best of my ability in
typing and from what has been posted previously
by Bob White, WO3B, and from QRP ARCI pubs, the
recommended calling freqs for QRPers.

You can work QRP anywhere in the ham bands, but
you'll find a large number of active QRPers start
around these frequencies in order to easily locate
others running low power.

If I have missed any recommended by other QRP
organizations, let me know. I'll update it
periodically and will put the list at the ftp
site. No need to repost to the group as you'll
start flame wars. :-)

Band	CW	SSB
160	1.810	1.910
		1.843 (Europe)
80	3.560	3.985
	3.710 (Novice)	3.690 (SSB EU)
40	7.040	7.285
	7.030 (Europe)	7.090 (SSB EU)

```
              7.060 (Europe)
              7.110 (Novice)
      30     10.106
      20     14.060              14.285
      17     18.096
      15     21.060              21.385
             21.110 (Novice)     21.285 (SSB EU)
      12     24.906
      10     28.060              28.885
             28.110 (Novice)     28.385 (Novice)
                                 28.360 (SSB EU)
       6     50.060              50.885
                                 50.285 (SSB EU)
       2    144.060             144.285
                                144.585 (FM)
```

```
--
Chuck Adams  K5FO  CP-60  adams@sgi.com
```

Now, I don't want to start a raging conflict, but here is the text of Chucks "definitive" calling frequency memo from earlier.

72
Ed, N5EM

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: John Shuster <jshuster@linknet.kitsap.lib.wa.us>
Subject: [1661] Re: Any interest in buying an OHR Explorer II?
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951220115310.6873A-100000@linknet.kitsap.lib.wa.us>

To All:

I've talked with Dick at OHR and I have agreed to
coordinate another group purchase in January.
If we can wait until after the holiday rush, and
save some money to do it!

Happy Holidays,

John Shuster
KC7CKP
coming out of retirement

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Frank@yorks.demon.co.uk (Frank)
Subject: [1646] Re: Club Project Suggestions
Message-ID: <337@yorks.demon.co.uk>

Hi! At or club we had a successful project of a Baycom tnc, which is simple
and a cheap way onto packet radio (with QRP) and PCBs are availlable.
Have fun!
--
Frank G3YCC

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [1642] Re: Fox Hunt Question
Message-ID: <199512201655.JAA04109@usr4.primenet.com>

At 11:44 AM 12/20/95 EST, H Smith wrote:
>Of the 42 Fox hunters that were worked last night, 32 were Extra Class, 7
>were Advanced, 2 were General and 1 was a Ve3.
>

>Where were the Advanced, Generals, Tech Pluses and Novices?
>
>I wonder how many people have tried the fox hunt and given up.
>
>Is there anything that we can do to help?
>

Perhaps a certificate for those other than Extra class who work the
fox? First fox = wallpaper, subsequent foxes = endorsement sticker.
Gotta be some artwork somewhere that could be used, and Chuck has the
records of who all were successful.

Be glad to help out if this idea is OK.

72/73, de Roger
--
       Roger Hightower, AA7QY   Mesa, AZ   (DM43CJ) aa7qy@primenet.com
 QRP-L #62 NE-QRP 383   NorCal 1099   CQC 176   QRP-ARCI 8946   G-QRP 9081

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: eighmy@scott.net
Subject: [1645] Re: Fox Hunt Question
Message-ID: <199512201809.MAA19688@koala.scott.net>

>Of the 42 Fox hunters that were worked last night, 32 were Extra Class, 7
>were Advanced, 2 were General and 1 was a Ve3.

>32 EXTRAS OUT OF 42 CONTACTS.

I think it would be interesting to compare these numbers to the license class breakdown of the total QRP-L list subscribers. If 75% of the list are Extras, then we need to turn more of the Novice/Techs/Generals/Advanced guys to the Joy of QRP!

72,
Gene
wd4mps
Birmingham, AL

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: V$BCIESLAK@china.qgraph.com
Subject: [1648] Re: Fox Hunt Question
Message-ID: <01HZ13GY59VM0051JZ@hub.qgraph.com>

I think you hear more extras on the air chasing foxes is cuz the other guys and gals are studying for their upgrades and don't have time to chase foxes.

AE9K

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Steve Slavsky <sslavsky@CapAccess.org>
Subject: [1657] Re: Fox Hunt Question
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.951220140748.9167A-100000@cap1.capaccess.org>

Two theories on why the tilt toward high level licensees in the Fox hunt-

1. Based on the level of technical discussion on this list, it appears

to me that most of the folks here are pretty advanced electric knowledge wise. I don't know if anyone has done a stratification of the master QRP-L list, but I'll bet that the generals and below are in a small minority. Given this base, it is simply a reflection of the membership.

2. As one of the 2 generals (actually I was a LTC, so this is a promotion), the code speed tends to be a bit fast. Since it is a limited exchange, I could pick most of it up, but it can be hard. Smitty was probably cruising at 20wpm, which is at my extreme upper limit. I hope that, with time, my speed will go up as I make more contacts. This list got me back into CW a few months ago after about 25 years with no CW at all. Novices/Tech Pluses have a miserable part of 40 meters QRM wise. It is much harder up there to get through and the high speeds don't help.

Solutions - 7110 may be the designated QRP frequency for novices, but is is virtually useless. The only place I can make reliable contacts on that part of the band after 2300 or so UTC is above 7040. Can we try that for a few go-rounds?
Slow down a bit - 13 - 15 wpm at least some of the time for call, and see how fast the station responding is. Might not make much difference for these short contacts, but we may be scaring people away.

Just a few thoughts to ponder. Now that I have bagged one, I am encouraged to keep trying.

Thanks again for all the hard work done by the Foxes.

73 & 72,

Steve, N4EUK
QRP-L #143

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Joe Spencer <jspencer@metronet.com>
Subject: [1659] Re: Fox Hunt Question
Message-ID: <Pine.HPP.3.90.951220131701.22130A-100000@fohnix.metronet.com>

Hi Roger and the gang,

I am one Extra who will admit that I am not very proficient at CW.

I have been using the fox hunts and listening to 40M to improve it.
I probably have less than two dozen CW QSO's that were sucessful and yet
I love QRP and plan to continue the hunt. Of that dozen, two were
sucessful Fox "catches". Most of my contacts have been short ones of this
type. After reading a couple of
messages today I realize that my best path to proficiecy is to get into
QSO's at any and all speeds I can and just do it...not worrying about
messing up.
So what is my point?!?

Well I guess it is that not all us Advanced/Extras have "been there, done
that" but we all feel the same thrill at doing that/there. My contacts
with the foxes were in the 7110 portion of the band at about 13-17WPM(where
I felt comfortable...and the only place I had heard the fox). I have not
heard the last 4-5 foxes but plan to search for the next ones and I'll
probably try to catch him in either portion I find him. And I would like
a fox certificate for my wall...us inexperienced Extras, etc. have not
collected all the wallpaper, etc. that many of you have.

72/73 de Joe KK5NA

On Wed, 20 Dec 1995, Roger Hightower wrote:

>
> Perhaps a certificate for those other than Extra class who work the
> fox? First fox = wallpaper, subsequent foxes = endorsement sticker.
> Gotta be some artwork somewhere that could be used, and Chuck has the
> records of who all were successful.
>
> Be glad to help out if this idea is OK.
>
> 72/73, de Roger
> --

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Jim Eshleman <lujce@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [1665] Re: Fox Hunt Question
Message-ID: <95Dec20.151917est.14493-2+18@hooch.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

  Well, I'd say it may have something to do with the number of Novice/Tech+
types on the list, as well as the amount of QRM up at 7.110. What follows is
a list of QRP-L subscribers by license class. Sorry, this list is as of Oct 2,
FCC calls only, and you're on here only if you included your call when you
subscribed. Might be some dups... I'll run another list as soon as I can.
I think we've picked up another 100 or so subscribers since then. We're now

at 800+!

73
Jim N3VXI

NOVICE:
KB3BGV

TECH:
N2NNP KE4NFJ KC5CWG WB1ECB N0XEU ke6uhj KB2TIS KC5KSH KE6MRM KD4CIM N1RGN KB0ROL N1RXV KC5DWB N9USD KE6KNF WB4JOG KC5ION KC5PCP N2NEP N0YVW N5XAT N2MQG KB2URI KB0LRB KD6MSM n3lsb

TECH PLUS:
KA0GKC KD6MNP KE6TYH KE6IYU KD4FNB WB3FYU KE4IZH WA7SSA KC6SPN N9WKE KB6VMQ kc6afk KC5FDQ N3BXZ KB9JLO KB0LMQ KB9KIT KE6PPI KB7YWE N6UGP KC7JZL N5QXF N9SSG n9rkb WB3LGC n9rkb KB0IHQ N2YRJ KC4YYY KB0DHQ KB2TGH KA8NRC N2BSC N2TUK KB3BFM N3PFF N8XYF N7QAQ

GENERAL:
WA8TZG N4EUK N3RCS N4AFX N4AFX KB9IUA W6EMT kb9hjt N1PAZ N2ZXE N7TDF K2SJB WB9ZDH N7OUA KA1MJR WB8NUT KA3EAJ N2IPY N8XBP KB7SOK KC7JKB kb7uxp N9UXC KC7AKW N2VDS KB7TCY N7WNC KB8BWE n2psh ke6ort KB0PZD N1TQD WB2QDG KC4YTF WD5BOR N3UTM KA2PQY N8HSC W0RSP K3GHH N7DUB N2VPK N5ALO WB0WAG wa2crg WB2SXN

ADVANCED:
N5JND KC1SX w6mik N2SMH WA2UNN KF8EE WA1VVH WA3ZGT n0jfz KB1NW KA5DVS N3FRT WA3CAO KC5EQC N1IPR KM6LA WA2ECP WB8QKR KF2XC kc2du K7SII KC1FB ke4pc WA5ABU KJ5HV KE0AZ WA7FCU KA2UPW KB7PEF W8LRM KE8KL W3HMS KD1XS WA8LCZ N6QGI wb7dru KJ7EY KE4HMP KO6GF KE9GG KE4QCM WD9GTE km6mo KA6LCL N6TQS W6TUH KN6ZT N3QOO KB1RT KJ7EM KA6NOC WB6TPU n1ava N0UVR KD1XN KB7WW K4EBY W0NAX w6nxb N5OSG WB2ATQ N2JOC KK6ZC KI7MN KQ4AL W1GXN WA4ZID KG0NR KJ7NR KD1TE WB1HBW WA6MOK W4STX N3OIE KA3BHY wb3cdx N4PWC WA3REY KF7HZ KC5MLG WB6GFJ KK5QA KK5KX N5TKA KJ7ET KI5SL WA8DXD WD8KNI KA7KGQ KA1LM KC5FMZ WB9NLZ W6JJZ N9OUH KB8AOB N3REY N7NIQ n0oqt N2YKP N2NJZ WB9OWN KF9VV ke0ww KS4PR WB2RAR AL7GQ n0xsh wb0mmc KB5RBW K5KVH WB8IJN WD8AAU WA3YNO WA9JML wp4jxd wp4jxd N3KFL KF2ZF KM6LJ KC5CUW WD5FGZ

EXTRA:
WX8F KA0IQT WB4OWL WA4GIR WZ2T wb8ruq KV9X AA7HA n7cnh K7DBV WB0POQ WA8MCQ k8kqj WA0JTL K8DD AA8LF WB8OGM N2PSL N4UHO NK3R KO4A KT3A AA2U NE4V WA6ARA N1PWU WA9YLB KA5T AA2UG KV2X KC4EWT n2cbv AA0UB nf0r WA1W NT1V K1YPP KC1GS N1OOQ AC4QO KD1GG N2CX NT3G K5ETX N3MBY WB2CPU k8ati N2CX N2MNN wb2gin NO8Z KI6SN AK0M NN9K WB7EEL N7YQR W3GW AA0XI WB3GCK K2LGJ AA2BN N1HWQ AB7GZ WF4B K8MI AC8P K5FO KE4AGT WB8YGG K7JPF WT6P W7HPK WO3B WB1CWD WB4ZKA kx5i N5YZM WS8T KI7S AA7QU WJ2V AA9IL KT3A N8CQA KI3B AA4PC N9DD K7YHA K2BEV WB6AAM K5ERJ AA4YZ NR4N KB8N AE4KN WA3ULH N6GA N0TFI KO1h KD8FR W5HNS KB8APS N0OCT kb9ilt

AL7EV KG7PV N4NCU KJ6GR AA1OC WW7Y K7BWZ AB6MB NA5K ak0b WB4BDS AA0XZ KA1AXY
wa6ahl N2JJ N6XG n6xg WW6I KF6MU N2ELW k3dpj WD7I WB0GAZ AB6DG w6zh K0JD W6RCL
N6HCS wi3c N1IST ki5ez NU8Z KC7DX NU8D KE1L KO6CL NO1E K5UP n6ulu WA6HHQ KJ5XF
AB6NZ W1KX WI6D NU8N NW1J NM1J aa5co N0TFI AD4ZE K2NF K6QQ WB8POK AC6KW AA8MD
N8VAR KO6UW AD4TG N2JGU KJ4XR W6EMD N6XI N1QPR W5RXP K3QXH WA7TWI NX1K NQ7K
AA7TA n7rat AA7QY ac4kh W5TB KK5NA KD7S K0PT AB5AX wo0q NM0H WE9D AB5EU K7RO
W4HFU AB7JX KD8EK W1FMR KD1F wa7yca WA3NNA WA5CMI N5CQU nr1j wk8g NQ7X K2PH
N4BP W9ZSJ WA7NWP W4QO K9DZE WA3FIY N1IPT wa5yfy KK5NA K5HGB K1MON K2EB AA3AV
AC4JI WB2ERY K6QD KI0G AB4EL AA4XX K3TKS W5TEH KA9BBV N8ET WD4MPS KD4BPI
WB0SCD ka3yaa WA3YON WI1S AA1IK WA4IML AA6UL AD4HM KG8H W5XE AB5WB AB5TZ KD8UX
NC8I AC4YT KE2WB WA9PWP NF3I WB8ZJL WA4NID AB5DG N6CXB WS4S KB5PGY WA3JPG KU7Y
KJ5CI W4RNL KD8NY KI6DS N9VHY N2ULU aa7hq AB7HI NA5N W9NIP AA2PF N5DW WD5GNW
AB5ZB WW9H AE4EX WB5LXA N0AX KD4HZ WD8RIF W8MHV NS8O AD4IM AB5OU KO6KA K0PT
N0BF W1HUE AB5QE KF2PH N4AOX K4CGY

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [1676] Re: Fox hunt question es CW proficiency
Message-ID: <199512210117.SAA17061@usr5.primenet.com>

At 06:39 PM 12/20/95 -0500, NYOUNG@nova.wright.edu wrote:
>Yep. And don't forget about getting on the air and sending.
>I remember how absolutely blown out of the water I felt after
>my first novice qso. I was in the Navy and they'd started the
>new RM/CYN program, with RMs getting CW school and CYNs getting
>teletype & crypto school. Thus, I knew no code going into it.
>But I liked radio. So it was a natural deal. And I had to find
>something to keep from becoming an alcoholic.
>
>I batted around for about a month or two after I got my
>novice call (WP4DKA, back when WP4 was a novice call for KP4),
>using a straight key, my DX60 and an SB series receiver that
>had started out for swling. Mostly 15 meters.
>
>Then one day, after staring at the adverts for weeks, I sent
>for and received a KR20 keyer from TenTec. I got it when I was
>going on watch. All the RMs looked at me like I was nuts. But
>I just sat down and started sending CW on that box, sending the
>regular traffic that I'd usually end up cutting into tape for
>the RTTY system we used. By the end of the watch I could walk
>into the receiver room, plunk one of the WWR2s down on a press
>or other CW traffic circuit and copy the stuff in my head. Words
>at a time. By the end of the week I was able to copy about 15
>wpm easy and had had maybe 20 QSOs resulting from me answering
>CQs from pretty quick stations, DX and otherwise.

>
>I am now a firm believer in two things about CW (and both things
>are related to linguistics, by the way): CW is a second language.
>You can't learn to understand it by sitting around reading books
>about it or listening to drills of repeated stuff. It has to be
>real life experiential language use. You listen and listen and
>listen and listen. And when you get comfortable at one speed, you
>move up a notch. You start out with buenos dias and you end up
>reciting Che Guevarra. That's (1). Number (2) is that anyone who
>decides to learn CW can learn to use it as easily as they can their
>own native language. Of course, those with 2 or more "second
>languages" will be able to trick through it more easily, 'cause
>the mind has been set up for variable inputs. But to make it work,
>you have to go back to Number (1).
>
>There's a book about this theory, most of it concerned with
>ESL (English as 2nd Language) theory and language acquisition
>theory. The book is by David Krashen and it's called _The Input
>Hypothesis_. You learn, according to Krashen's hyptothesis,
>by exposure to "sufficient comprehensible input." And if that
>don't sound like learning CW by listening to off-the-air stuff,
>I don't know what else it could be.
>
>And having said all this, I'll let you cut out the parts that don't
>need to be there and repost it. Hell if I'm gonna remember or want
>to retype all this.
>
>73
>Nils
>WB8IJN
>
>
Nils is right on...anyone who sat in the radio shack on a ship can
probably relate the same type of stories. I don't see anything to
cut out, so will just repost this.

72/73, de Roger
--
       Roger Hightower, AA7QY   Mesa, AZ   (DM43CJ) aa7qy@primenet.com
 QRP-L #62 NE-QRP 383   NorCal 1099   CQC 176   QRP-ARCI 8946   G-QRP 9081

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: prvalko <prvalko@Oakland.edu>
Subject: [1618] Re: Fox YES!
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.951220003236.3084A-100000@vela.acs.oakland.edu>

So I'm whining with Walt, WB8E on the local repeater how we are getting
skunked once again on the Fox Hunt....

I look up at the clock and see it's 3:30 or so, and the Smitster should
be on 7.110. Reaching for the big knob on the Corsair I wheel over to
the novice freq and park on a clear spot.

About ten seconds later (no foolin') I hear a 579 sig send QRL?

I return a dididahdahdidit amd get another QRL? in response.

Just for the hell of it I send "FOX?" and you-know-who comes back right
away with "YUP de NA5K"

I just about drop my pencil in shock then fire off the report and say 73.

Man, when you're luckly you are LUCKY, and when you're not... you go FOXLESS!

73! es Happy Holidays de WB8ZjL =paul=

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: "David F. Kurth" <dfk@col.hp.com>
Subject: [1639] Re: foxhunt - first success
Message-ID: <199512201616.AA120216165@alien17.col.hp.com>

> --------
> 7.040 (ish)
> --------
> Time Call   Snt Rcv
>
> 0456 N0UVR   449 339
>
> Smitty, NA5K

After 23 foxhunt evenings, I finally got my first fox!
Actually, this is only the third evening I've heard
the fox, and one of the other times the fox was also NA5K.

I had two "jobs" last night. The first was the fox hunt,
the second was balance the checkbook. I listened from 7
to 7:30, but heard nothing until 7:30 when Smitty QSY'd to
7110. I had him, but now he was gone. Never heard him
on 7110. So back to the checkbook.

At 9:50pm, I finished the checkbook. With less than 10
minutes left, I went back to 7040. I actually found NA5K,
sometimes strong. The first two calls were not successful,
but I almost fell off my chair when he answered my third call.

I'm using a Kenwood TS430-S with a 5 foot diameter copper
pipe tuned loop antenna in the *attic*. It's in the verticle
plane, and oriented for east-west propagation. My experience
indicates that it does get a signal out, but it is indeed
a compromised antenna.

73/72 Dave N0UVR qrp-l #9

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>
Subject: [1640] Re: foxhunt - first success
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951220082350.18307A-100000@crl14.crl.com>

On Wed, 20 Dec 1995, David F. Kurth wrote:

> > --------
> > 7.040 (ish)
> > --------
> > Time Call   Snt Rcv
> >
> > 0456 N0UVR   449 339
> >
> > Smitty, NA5K
>
> After 23 foxhunt evenings, I finally got my first fox!

Congratulation!

> Actually, this is only the third evening I've heard
> ... etc ...
>
> I'm using a Kenwood TS430-S with a 5 foot diameter copper
> pipe tuned loop antenna in the *attic*. It's in the verticle
> plane, and oriented for east-west propagation. My experience
> indicates that it does get a signal out, but it is indeed
> a compromised antenna.
>

Just prior to the Fox hunt, I worked a station in Mississippi that was

running 10 watts into a 3 foot loop that was inside of the house. He was packing in a very respectable signal.

So, don't overlook these indoor loop antennas. We have proof that they will work.

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Jacqueline Herman <jherman@sierra.net>
Subject: [1679] Re: free xtals
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951220173352.2216B-100000@diamond>

Dang, let me try this again:

On Wed, 20 Dec 1995, Jeff NH6IL wrote:

> Hi Gang,
> It's been a year or two since I posted anything to you folks - it's
> good to be back!
>
> I have 2 dozen xtals cut for 7600 kc (in the old FT holder). @Y4oB* +5C|O{

If anyone would like 1 or 2 to play with (for grinding up to 30M) or for a local oscillator project) send me an email with your address and I'll get it in the mail.

73 to all!

Removed from Hawaii for 3 weeks,
Jeff NH6IL\7

Usually: jherman@hawaii.edu or jeffrey@math.hawaii.edu
Currently: jherman@sierra.net

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: David Speegle <dspeegle@dialin.ind.net>
Subject: [1627] Re: Gell Cell Charging
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951220052058.8598A-100000@dialin.ind.net>

What kind of charger do you need to charge a gel cell? Dave NE9F

==
| David Speegle   Email Alias: David.Speegle@dialin.ind.net
|
|
| 311 S West St.
|
| Argos, IN   46511
| Phone: 219.546.3848   FAX:
==

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: JCoote@aol.com
Subject: [1611] Re: looking for surplus stuff--need help :-)
Message-ID: <951219220927_94955123@mail04.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 95-12-19 09:15:02 EST, bauer@hrz.uni-kassel.de writes:

>i know the surplus stuff has a bad history.... but for fieldday and other
>outdoor use ....it`s made for it... 100%.
>
>there are some hams around in the area and we are all looking some of the
>following surplus short wave radios.
>
>if any of you just give us a idea where to get just one piece of the
>following
>list we would be happy:
>
>#1 HF-SSB/CW TRX -PRC-15- by CARVILL Telecommunications
>
>#2 HF-SSB/CW TRX -CP34- or/and -CP44- by Canadian Marconi Company
>
>#3 HF-SSB/CW Manpack Radio PRC-610 by ?
>
>#4 HF-SSB/CW TRX -719D-15 by Collins/Rockwell International
>
>#5 HF-SSB/CW TRX -SC 120 Patrolfone by Southcom International Inc.
>
>#6 HF-SSB/CW Manpack TRX -AN/PRC-119 by ITT Aerospace/Optical Division
>
>#7 HF/VHF SSB/CW/FM Manpack TRX -AN/PRC-70- by Cincinnati Electronics
>
>
>we are looking for any information
>

>we take any offer (hopefully there are some)
>
>if you know where to get this stuff let me know it!.... PSE !!! .-)
>
>so tanx for reading all that dit and dots take care have a good one

The US military sometimes disposes of their equipment by public auction and sales to the public. Some bases even have their own "surplus stores" I am told. The nationwide (USA) auctions are of interest to large bidders, those in the surplus business. The smaller (local) base auctions and sales may turn up occasional surplus radios. There may also be surplus programs which donate to local emergency groups such as Red Cross, bona-fide amateur emergency communications groups.

You might browse:
http://131.87.1.51
http://drmo.dla.mil

In the USA there are a few vendors around who sell surplus radio and comm equipment. A few of the companies even overhaul the equipment for local sales and sales overseas.

The law enforcement agency I work for is applying for the DRMO program which allocates some surplus equipment for counter-narcotic law enforcement activity only.

A few things to be aware of in surplus radios:
Older sets are USB only plus CW, no LSB.
Older sets have 1 kHz increments, newer sets 100 Hz increments, no VFO and some have RIT.
FM sets use a wider deviation that the 4-5 KHz in most ham and commercial equipment.
Newer FM sets use a 150 Hz tone squelch (called "new squelch") as well as carrier squelch ("old squelch"). The tone deviates at 1 kHz.
Many HF sets are hardened against adjacent interference (powerful transmitters in the same site) and don't have the high (bench) sensitivity of todays ham gear.
A lot of this equipment is 24-28 volt DC from vehicle power. The larger HF airborne radios use 400Hz AC power in 203 volt wye and delta configurations (3 and 4-wire). Battery packs may be hard to find, but I hear of a book called "Power Up" which tells how to make battery packs for more common R/Ts such as PRC-77.

73, Jay
WB6AAM

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: tdrumm@sparc.isl.net (Tony Drumm)
Subject: [1612] Re: Mouse Paddles
Message-ID: <199512200405.WAA27498@sparc.isl.net>

>   I never thought twice about that question. I use the index and
>middle finger to send. Index is for dashes and middle finger is for
>dots, but choice is yours.   If you try uning the thumb it is too

>connecting all three buttons together, ground wire went there. Left
>button for dahs, center for dits. Stereo 1/8" phono on the other end

As I said in one of my messages, I've only used an electronic keyer
for a short while but I thought the "standard" configuration was dahs
on the right paddle and dits on the left. Am I confused or are those
with mouse keys intentionally setting the left and right backwards?
I'm just starting to feel mildly comfortable with a keyer - hope I
didn't learn backwards!
Tony Drumm
internet: tdrumm@sparc.isl.net
Packet: aa0sm@wd0gnk.#semn.mn.usa.na

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [1615] Re: Mouse Paddles
Message-ID: <951219232354_95022655@emout06.mail.aol.com>

Hi Mike,

All computer mice use switches that have to move a certain distance to make
the contact and another distance to break it. this keeps the switches from
giving multiple closures when you press it once. this very feature makes it
difficult to use a mouse as a iambic or semi-iambic key at speeds over 10
wpm. The contacts on your iambic paddle can be set to the thickness of a
sheet of paper with no overtravel needed. Most ops sending 20 wpm or faster
are doing this now.

For portable operation, under 10 or 15 wpm, you could get by with a mouse.
But it would drive me crazy, having to get all the way off the button, before
closing it again. . I'm usually looking for ways to make my keying easier and
to sound better. The mouse approach seems to be going in the wrong direction.
Now, if you could replace those mouse switches with something similar to an
iambic key, you might have something very special. It's an interesting way to
house a key for mobile or portable use. I've noticed small 12 volt miniature
relays, available at swaps, have some very nice contacts and are usually

selling for a buck or less. they already have a spring to keep them open when not energized. they could be adapted to the mouse housing to make a good portable key. And it could be capable of high speed code. It sounds like it should work. What do you think ?

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: kreinbd@ccgate.dl.nec.com (David Kreinberg)
Subject: [1655] Re: Novice/Tech Plus re Foxhunt
Message-ID: <9511208194.AA819490192@smtpgw.ccgate.dl.nec.com>

> Chuck and gang:
> I wholeheatedly agree with Chuck's assessment of the fox Novice/Tech Plus situation.
> It's easy to feel intimidated on the air. I'm an Extra and I fully admite to each one of you that I still get overwhelmed at times behind the key. It's the kind of exhilaration you just can't explain to a person who has no passion for a subject (numerous times I've tried to explain to my wife the incredible feeling I get when I've just finished a QSO with a station in, say, Wash. State - let alone a new country! She just pats me on the head and says, "That's nice, dear. I would have just called them on the phone". She JUST DOESN"T GET IT!!!! ;-))
> But to actually carry on a communication with someone with less power it takes to light a tiny Christmas tree lamp, now that is truly special!
> I always strive to meet the other station's needs (speed, frequent repeated info. if necessary, etc). I want the other person to have just as much fun as I'm having. That's why (I would hope) that ANY station should enjoy finding out that I'm QRP, and proving how truly amazing all this radio stuff is.
> Happy Holidays to all, and to all didahdidahdidah
> de Dave KK5HA
> QRP-L #25

_____ Reply Separator _____
Subject: Novice/Tech Plus re Foxhunt
Author: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com at smtplink-dl
From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: KT3A@aol.com
Subject: [1670] Re: Novice/Tech Plus re Foxhunt

Message-ID: <951220165457_20028998@mail04.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 95-12-20 13:32:02 EST, you write:

>What have the NorCal 40(a,b), SWL rigs, OHR rigs, and the other
>small rigs have pretty much in common. Few bells and whistles.
>Simple to operate and little to go wrong. We can pretty much
>find someone with a replace part that doesn't cost me a months
>worth of rent or a house/car payment. I love it.
>
>

Aaaahhhhh, the simple life in a complex world! That's the essence
of QRP. I can work wonders with such a simple setup. I love the
fact that you can't really prejudge the other individual as well. (Good
guess if it's a 5 station it's a Texan ;^)). Life should be like that.
The US Gov't does not charge us for use of the airways (yet).
Another thing to be thankful for! Let's keep up the encouragement
and limit complaints. Merry Christmas from the Keystone state.

72 de cameron, kt3a QRP-L #7 (a simple perfect number) <><

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: "Timothy J. Pettibone" <tpettibo@NMSU.Edu>
Subject: [1671] Re: Novice/Tech Plus re Foxhunt
Message-ID: <Pine.A32.3.91.951220152327.46658A-100000@hector>

Cameron:

Ah yes, life is (can be sweet) but, believe me, all 5's are not in Texas!
As we used to say in Alaska, "Better watch it Texans, we'll split Alaska
in half and make Texas the 3rd largest state!" But thanks for hearing me
in Texas last nite anyway, Smitty!

Tim AB5OU
Las Cruces, NM

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [1614] Re: Propagation
Message-ID: <951219232353_95022642@emout05.mail.aol.com>

Hi Bill,

At 18 minutes past the hour, WWV gives the solar flux index, the A and the K indices, the conditions for the past 24 hours and the forecast for the next 24 hours. The report is updated every three hours at 0018z, 0318z, etc.

On 17 Dec at 1518z, the solar flux report was:
SFI=070 A=22 K=02, Last 24 hours: VERY LOW, QUIET TO UNSETTLED,
Next 24 hours: VERY LOW, QUIET TO UNSETTLED
I worked a VO1 and KB7 from Michigan.

On 29 Nov at 2118z it was SFI=072 a=12 k-=00
I worked Sardinia and Brazil

Not alot of difference in the numbers

Based on my general knowledge (watching the SFI for the last 3.5 years). The A index is how well the ionosphere has been the last 24 hours, a number higher than 20 is bad, a low number is very good. The K index is the noise figure for the next 24 hours.Usually 2 is decent, 1 is better and 0 is great. thats the lowest solar noise level. Most of my DX has been worked while the K index was at 0 or 1, occasionally at 2. When solar storms are raging, the K index can be 4 to 6. I have rarely heard it over 6. I've found when the solar flux number hits 90 or higher, the band is open to Russia and Japan at the right time of day. I have not seen the SFI much above 90 since July 92 (when i became active on HF again.) I missed the peak of the previous solar cycle, so i plan on being around until the next peak and working DX until it comes out of my ears.

Just because the solar flux is good doesnt always mean, you'll be able to work DX, local thunder storm conditions can add an unbelieveable amount of noise to the bands, making then practically useless. Even storm conditions on the east coast can make the bands in Michigan terrible, when our local wx doesnt seem that bad.

I always wondered why there wasnt any readable info on what to expect with solar flux readings, I guess its because, its a continuously variable phenonenom with so many variables that it cant be easily explained. Watching the SFI and listening to the bands is probably the best way to learn about it. There were times when the SFI was 74 and I worked throughout Europe, other times I cant work Spain. The numbers are meerly an indication of what could be.

72, Byron WA8LCZ

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: W3HMS@aol.com
Subject: [1669] Re: qrp kits
Message-ID: <951220163344_20010794@mail06.mail.aol.com>

Bob......I think a small VXO transceiver for 80 m with DC rcvr along the lines you describe would be excellent. The same for 160 meters would be unique as I think only 1-2 firms sell 160 m kits. 72/73, John W3HMS

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: "'AB7HI' Stephen Lee" <slee@u.washington.edu>
Subject: [1622] Re: Tuesday nite Fox Report
Message-ID: <Pine.A32.3.91j.951219223453.99132A-100000@homer15.u.washington.edu>

The Northwest was listening. Heard Gary, WB4IHI, operating QRO from St. Petersburg, Florida, on 7.0425 at 0300UTC. His power level was 100 watts and I was receiving him 579. Heard a digital station at 7.0402 and another at 7.0385 so didn't spend much time there. Finally connected with Roy, W6EMT/QRP, from Bellevue, WA. He said the band was very busy tonite trying to work the Fox. Then the digital boys came back on so we signed off. I heard very weak stations off and on between 0300 and 0430 UTC but not enough signal to make out a complete call. We in the Northwest must have been in a Foxhole tonight :(

Will do it all again on Thursday, eh?
Stephen Lee, AB7HI
slee@u.washington.edu

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Steve Slavsky <sslavsky@CapAccess.org>
Subject: [1631] Re: Tuesday nite Fox Report
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.951220084636.21838B-100000@cap1.capaccess.org>

I am truly thrilled to see that my contact with the FOX actually made it to the list. After many evenings of listening to static and an occacional distant FOX QSO, I figured I would try again last night. 7110 was horrible - wall to wall Radio Whateverlands. 7040 was not bad, but some loud QRM would fade in and out when I suddenly heard NA5K just above the noise. His skill and patience in pulling me out made the contact possible. Thank you, Smitty, for hanging in there with me. I am using 5 watts from a Yaesu FT-840 to a 100' long wire at 25' up.

Now I need to build my Explorer II so I feel the real satisfaction of working the FOX on a homebuilt rig. Almost as much fun as my novice days using a 6L6 transmitter and a Lafayette receiver with a knife switch for antenna switching.

73 & 72 & Happy Holidays,

Steve Slavsky, N4EUK
Reston, VA
QRP-L #143

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Bill Acito 20-Dec-1995 0942 <acito@asdg.ENET.dec.com>
Subject: [1633] RE: Tuesday nite Fox Report
Message-ID: <9512201446.AA10439@us1rmc.bb.dec.com>

> Well Smitty, I did hear you in there a few times, from 539 down to nothing, QSB in and out. Never really enough to tell if you were in QSO or calling QRZ?. I did get a call or two off on 7.110. Wonder if we should adopt meteor scatter techniques for the fox hunts.
>
> Lot's of QRN here in the North East with the snow coming down. (8" in central MA, a foot or so in Boston).
>
> I'm at work this morning, and they shut the place down on me and didn't tell me. The rest of the 2000 people won't get here until noon. :-)
>
> b

. . . . . - I own my own words - . . . . . .
Bill Acito
acito@asdg.enet.dec.com
|d|i|g|i|t|a|l| Digital Equipment Corporation Hudson, MA

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Harry_Chase@smtpgwy.windata.com (Harry Chase)
Subject: [1638] RE: Tuesday nite Fox Report
Message-ID: <9511208194.AA819483294@smtpgwy.windata.com>

I heard the fox yesterday around 11:50 (EST) , using my just-completed Explorer II! All I had for an antenna was a piece of wire (no time to work on that part yet...) so I didnt try to reply. There was a constant carrier nearby but the adjustable BW filter in the Explorer did a reasonable job of picking out the fox from the "stuff". That filter is pretty neat; the only negative about it is that it seems to become quite lossy as you reach the narrow end of the adjustment range. (signals properly tuned in get weaker, even as the qrm is disappearing...) The fox was weak with QSB, and I had to keep the filter set no tighter than 3/4 way to narrow end in order to hear him.
I wonder if there are any adjustments that can be done on the crystal filter section, that anyone has tried. (in spite of this, please note that I am NOT complaining , with a radio that cost only $80!)

Harry
WA1VVH

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Dec 20 21:12:24 1995
From: Myron China <chim@gwl.com>
Subject: [1673] Re: Why extra class in Foxhunt?
Message-ID: <199512202029.AA26254@gp-sparc56.gwl.com>

another thing to consider is that most novices/tech+s like me are only using low wire antennas (dipoles, inverted v's, etc.) on small residential lots. we don't have the big antenna farms or exotic stuff that the more advanced hams often have. we have enough trouble dealing with the qrn/qsb on 40m let alone trying to find the fox in the first place. but that doesn't mean i'm not out there listening and trying to join in on the fun. and yes, i'm busy studying so i can upgrade.

my 2cents.
myron

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